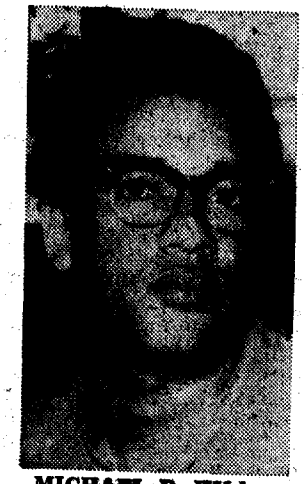
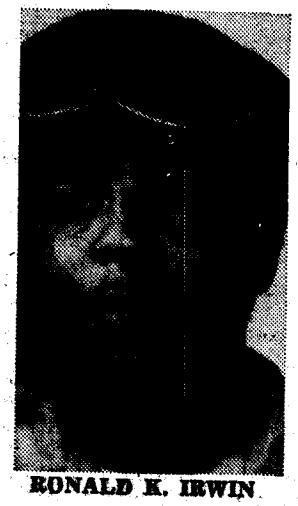
Post 9/25/71

Armed Woman Seized On Panther Hijack Try



MICHAEL D. HILL
... would flee U.S.



RONALD K. IRWIN
... release demanded

DETROIT, Sept. 24 (AP)—Acting on a tip, police arrested a white woman who boarded a jetliner today carrying dynamite and a pistol in a shopping bag and, according to officers, planned to commandeer the plane to fly two jailed Black Panthers out of the country.

Police said they arrested Barbara Pliskow, 37, a part-time college instructor, in an airport waiting room after a brief struggle in which she pulled a stick of dynamite from the shopping bag and threatened to detonate it with a bullet. Police disarmed her before she could act.

Authorities gave this account:

Miss Pliskow, described by her father as "involved in Black Panthers and White," sought to gain control of the plane to demand the release of Michael D. Hill, 26, of Des Moines, Iowa, and Ronald K. Irwin, 19, of Detroit, and help them flee the United States.

She was among 61 persons—55 passengers and 6 crew members—on American Airlines Flight 124 that was to go from Detroit to New York's La Guardia Airport.

But Detroit police intelligence learned of the alleged plot and passed the information along to other authorities, who ordered the flight delayed and the passengers to deplane on the pretense of "mechanical trouble."

While the passengers were being held in the waiting room, a police lieutenant recognized Miss Pliskow and authorities moved in on her.

During the struggle that ensued she grabbed a stick of dynamite with one hand, the pistol with the other and threatened to detonate the dynamite, shouting: "Now we all die!" However, she was disarmed.

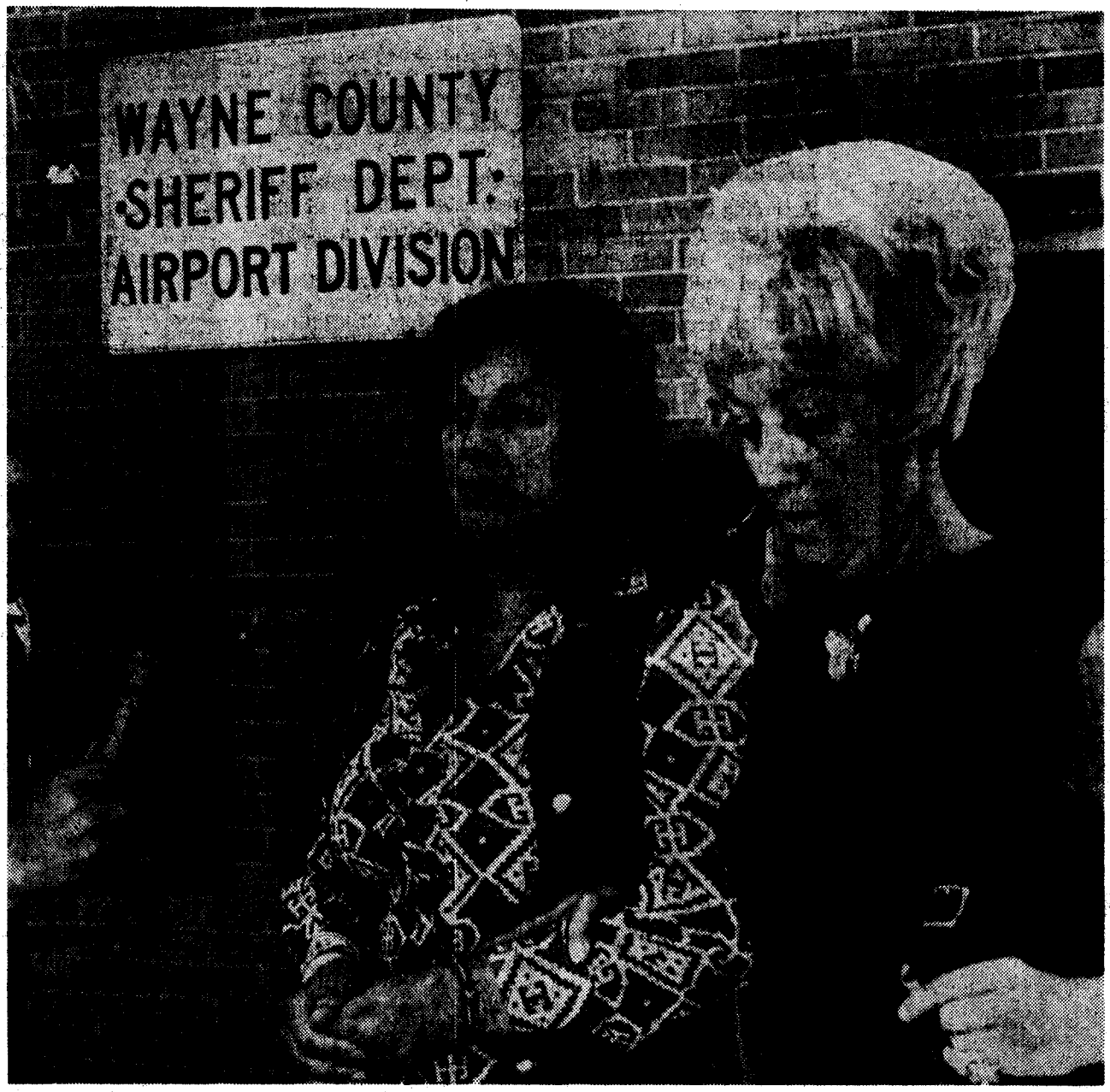
The police officers and federal sky marshals who made the arrest found two sticks of dynamite, the .25-caliber pistol and some cordite fuses on her.

Miss Pliskow, identified as a part-time instructor at Wayne State University in Detroit, was held for investigation. No charges were filed immediately.

Authorities gave few details of the alleged plot, although Police Inspector Richard Boutin said she planned to blow up the Boeing 727 unless Hill and Irwin were freed. They are in Detroit's Wayne County jail.

Hill is awaiting extradition on a murder charge stemming from the slaying in New York of a West Coast Panther, Samuel Napier. The slaying has been described by authorities as part of a feud between East and West Coast Panther factions.

Irwin was sentenced to life in prison Thursday on a second-degree murder conviction in the slaying of a Mesick, Mich., man at a Detroit commune last April.



United Press International

Barbara Pliskow, 37, former psychology professor from Detroit, left, is led from Wayne County sheriff's office at Detroit Metro airport by a policewoman to be taken into FBI custody after trying to board an American Airlines plane at Detroit for a flight to New York with two sticks of dynamite and a pistol.